

# The Stealth People Win

Rick Myatt  
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## **Zephaniah 2-3 (NIV)**

Gather together, gather yourselves together, you shameful nation, <sup>2</sup> before the decree takes effect and that day passes like windblown chaff, before the LORD's fierce anger comes upon you, before the day of the LORD's wrath comes upon you. <sup>3</sup> Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, you who do what he commands. Seek righteousness, seek humility; perhaps you will be sheltered on the day of the LORD's anger.

## **Zephaniah 2-3 (NIV)**

<sup>4</sup> Gaza will be abandoned and Ashkelon left in ruins. At midday Ashdod will be emptied and Ekron uprooted. <sup>5</sup> Woe to you who live by the sea, you Kerethite people; the word of the LORD is against you, Canaan, land of the Philistines. He says, “I will destroy you, and none will be left.” <sup>6</sup> The land by the sea will become pastures having wells for shepherds and pens for flocks.

## Zephaniah 2-3 (NIV)

<sup>7</sup> That land will belong to the remnant of the people of Judah; there they will find pasture. In the evening they will lie down in the houses of Ashkelon.

The LORD their God will care for them; he will restore their fortunes. Moab and Ammon <sup>8</sup> “I have heard the insults of Moab and the taunts of the Ammonites, who insulted my people and made threats against their land.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore, as surely as I live,” declares the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, “surely Moab will become like Sodom, the Ammonites like Gomorrah—a place of weeds and salt pits, a wasteland forever. The remnant of my people will plunder them; the survivors of my nation will inherit their land.”

## Zephaniah 2-3 (NIV)

- <sup>10</sup> This is what they will get in return for their pride, for insulting and mocking the people of the LORD Almighty. <sup>11</sup> The LORD will be awesome to them when he destroys all the gods of the earth. Distant nations will bow down to him, all of them in their own lands. <sup>12</sup> “You Cushites, too, will be slain by my sword.”
- <sup>13</sup> He will stretch out his hand against the north and destroy Assyria, leaving Nineveh utterly desolate and dry as the desert.



## Zephaniah 2-3 (NIV)

- <sup>14</sup> Flocks and herds will lie down there, creatures of every kind. The desert owl and the screech owl will roost on her columns. Their hooting will echo through the windows, rubble will fill the doorways, the beams of cedar will be exposed.
- <sup>15</sup> This is the city of revelry that lived in safety. She said to herself, “I am the one! And there is none besides me.” What a ruin she has become, a lair for wild beasts! All who pass by her scoff and shake their fists.

## **Zephaniah 2-3 (NIV)**

**3** Woe to the city of oppressors, rebellious and defiled! **2** She obeys no one, she accepts no correction. She does not trust in the LORD, she does not draw near to her God. **3** Her officials within her are roaring lions; her rulers are evening wolves, who leave nothing for the morning. **4** Her prophets are unprincipled; they are treacherous people. Her priests profane the sanctuary and do violence to the law.

# Zephaniah 2-3 (NIV)

<sup>5</sup> The LORD within her is righteous; he does no wrong. Morning by morning he dispenses his justice, and every new day he does not fail, yet the unrighteous know no shame. <sup>6</sup> “I have destroyed nations; their strongholds are demolished. I have left their streets deserted, with no one passing through. Their cities are laid waste; they are deserted and empty. <sup>7</sup> Of Jerusalem I thought, ‘Surely you will fear me and accept correction!’ Then her place of refuge would not be destroyed, nor all my punishments come upon her. But they were still eager to act corruptly in all they did.



## Zephaniah 2-3 (NIV)

<sup>8</sup> Therefore wait for me,” declares the LORD, “for the day I will stand up to testify. I have decided to assemble the nations, to gather the kingdoms and to pour out my wrath on them—all my fierce anger. The whole world will be consumed by the fire of my jealous anger. <sup>9</sup> “Then I will purify the lips of the peoples, that all of them may call on the name of the LORD and serve him shoulder to shoulder.

## **Zephaniah 2-3 (NIV)**

<sup>10</sup> From beyond the rivers of Cush my worshipers, my scattered people, will bring me offerings.<sup>11</sup> On that day you, Jerusalem, will not be put to shame for all the wrongs you have done to me, because I will remove from you your arrogant boasters. Never again will you be haughty on my holy hill.<sup>12</sup> But I will leave within you the meek and humble. The remnant of Israel will trust in the name of the LORD.

## Zephaniah 2-3 (NIV)

<sup>13</sup> They will do no wrong; they will tell no lies. A deceitful tongue will not be found in their mouths. They will eat and lie down and no one will make them afraid.” <sup>14</sup> Sing, Daughter Zion; shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem! <sup>15</sup> The LORD has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm.

## Zephaniah 2-3 (NIV)

<sup>16</sup> On that day they will say to Jerusalem, “Do not fear, Zion; do not let your hands hang limp.  
<sup>17</sup> The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.” <sup>18</sup> “I will remove from you all who mourn over the loss of your appointed festivals, which is a burden and reproach for you.

## **Zephaniah 2-3 (NIV)**

<sup>19</sup> At that time I will deal with all who oppressed you. I will rescue the lame; I will gather the exiles. I will give them praise and honor in every land where they have suffered shame. <sup>20</sup> At that time I will gather you; at that time I will bring you home. I will give you honor and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes,” says the LORD.



- Judgment Was Coming
- There Was Hope
- God Would Save the Meek



# Matthew 5:4 (NIV)

<sup>4</sup> Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

## Judges 6:15 (NIV)

<sup>15</sup> “Pardon me, my lord,” Gideon replied, “but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.”

- Judgment Was Coming
- There Was Hope
- God Would Save the Meek



# Implications

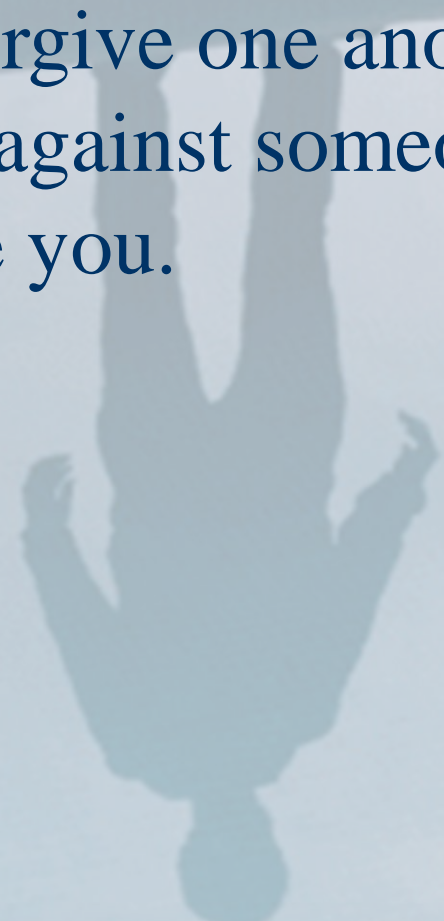
A pair of sneakers sits on a white shelf. Below the shelf, a person's shadow is cast upside down on a light-colored wall. The background is a solid dark blue.

- It Is Essential For Our Rescue
- It Cures a Demanding Spirit
- It Is Necessary For Peace
- It Makes Us Gentle With Others



## Colossians 3:13 (NIV)

<sup>13</sup> Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.



# Implications

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- It Is Essential For Our Rescue
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A pair of brown shoes sits on a light-colored ledge. Below the ledge, a dark shadow of a person is cast onto a light blue surface. The word "CONCLUSION" is written in large, bold, dark blue letters across the center of the image.

# CONCLUSION

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